

Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum
Board of Directors
Minutes

January 16, 2003
3:00 p.m.

Monday Afternoon Club
Willows, Ca.

Chair Jane Dolan called the meeting of the Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum to order at 3:00 p.m. at the above location. It was determined there was a quorum of (11) voting members present.

County	Public Interest	Landowner	Agency
Butte	Jane Dolan	Shirley Lewis	
Colusa	David Womble	Ben Carter	
Glenn	Denny Bungarz	Don Anderson	
Shasta	Glenn Hawes	(Dan Gover)	
Sutter	(Dan Silva)	(Russell Young)	
Tehama	Bill Borrer	(Brendon Flynn)	
Yolo	Lynnel Pollock	Marc Faye	
Resources Agency			Mel Dodgin
Cal DWR			(Dwight Russell)
Cal DFG			Diana Jacobs
State Reclamation Board			Pete Rabbon
USF&WS			Mike Hoover
US COE			Mark Charlton
Bureau of Reclamation			Myrnie Mayville

Names listed in parentheses represent absences

Also present an estimated audience of 20 interested persons

Manager Burt Bundy

Assistant Pat Brown, Recording Secretary

Resources Agency

Tim Ramirez

- 1) Public Participation, Unscheduled Matters: John Merz, Sacramento River Preservation Trust, announced the upcoming Snow Goose Festival January 24th through January 26th beginning in Chico. The Festival will feature field trips, workshops, and a dinner Friday evening celebrating the 100-year anniversary of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Refuge system. Additional information is available on their website @ www.sacrivetrust.org.
- 2) Consent Calendar: Glenn Hawes moved to adopt the December 19, 2002 minutes, seconded by Bill Borrer. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
- 3) Agency Reports: The Chair introduced new Board member Myrnie Mayville who will replace Laura Allen as the ex-officio representative from the Bureau of Reclamation. Mike Hoover will represent the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at today's meeting; a

permanent appointment has not yet been made. Glenn Hawes, Shasta County, announced the Corps of Engineers (COE) now has a representative in the Redding area; Mark Charlton noted the COE is trying to have more representatives available to make information more accessible to the public. Tim Ramirez, The Resources Agency, commented on the CALFED Science Conference ending today in Sacramento which had 1200 people in attendance.

- 4) Proposed Handbook Amendment: A proposed Handbook amendment by Family Water Alliance (FWA) was referred to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for review. The amendment is made up of two issues (1) Language referring to setback levees and (2) restoration outside the Conservation Area. The TAC recommended that a Handbook amendment subcommittee be established to discuss the language and that the make-up of the committee be those who had dealt previously with the "Issues to be Resolved". Because some of those members are gone it was suggested that there be three Board members added to the subcommittee: a landowner representative, a public interest representative, and an agency representative. Tom Evans, FWA, re-stated the reason for requesting the amendment; they feel the language is not appropriate and is threatening to some landowners. Marc Faye moved that the Board appoint a subcommittee and refer the issue to that subcommittee for discussion, seconded by Don Anderson. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Following the vote the members of the Handbook amendment subcommittee were established. From the old committee, Les Heringer, John Merz, Stacy Cepello, Ernie Ohlin, Paul Ward; new members, Anjanette Martin, David Womble, Tom Evans, Marc Faye, Pete Rabbon, Shirley Lewis. This serves as the base for the committee; however, all of the committees are open to any interested stakeholder. Following discussion at the subcommittee level, the issue will go back to the TAC, then to the Board. The SRCAF staff will email the committee and help facilitate some initial discussion.
- 5) Discussion of Planning Actions Re: Habitat Lands: The Chair asked that a discussion on land use issues within the counties be placed on a future agenda. One of the concerns noted is the impact that land use decisions in one county can have on another. Because of the large scope of issues involved and the importance of knowing the "bigger" picture, there were questions as to how broad the discussion should be. A question was raised asking for clarification on what information is wanted for the initial discussion. The Chair asked that the Supervisors from each of the counties come prepared to talk about how their county is dealing with land use issues, to bring handouts and, if appropriate, necessary staff.
- 6) Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins Comprehensive Study Report: Mark Charlton, COE, was introduced to update the Board on the Study. The Reclamation Board accepted the Interim Report on December 20th 2002. A paragraph was added indicating that the technical appendices are separate from the Interim Report. The technical studies will be updated as necessary, based on available information. Pete Rabbon, The Reclamation Board, noted that under the Guiding Principles set forth in the Interim Report, the primary issue remains flood damage reduction. The principles are there to be used as tools, not absolute requirements, discretion still remains with The Reclamation

Board. Mark discussed the approach to developing system-wide, regional, and local projects. The COE will look for locals to initiate projects and gain broad local support, as in the case of Hamilton City. Denny Bungarz credited the SRCAF with helping move the process forward at Hamilton City by its continued focus. It was also pointed out that the partnership with CALFED helped to minimize costs by providing a grant to fund the non-federal portion of the study. Woodson Bridge is another example of the locally initiated and supported project.

A question was raised as to the availability of the technical studies generated by the Study. Mark noted the members of the Comprehensive Study Group are moving on to other projects; there are approximately 2 years of funding remaining, and beyond that the technical information will possibly migrate to CALFED. Additional information is available on their website @ compstudy.org. Pete pointed out that the Sacramento River Bank Protection Project had initially started the Comprehensive Study, not the '97 flood. The flood resulted in the infusion of monies but the regional concept was there. In conclusion, Mark pointed out that the Comprehensive Plan signified a worldwide leading effort as well as unprecedented modeling efforts.

Tim Ramirez discussed the lack of support for the study to continue; the next phase should be a feasibility study but the interest is not there. He encouraged everyone to look at creative ways to minimize costs and facilitate partnerships, as in the case of Hamilton City. He noted The Reclamation Board has asked for a written agreement between The Reclamation Board, the COE, and the CALFED Authority. In March or April, prior to a trip to Washington, Tim will bring a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding to the SRCAF Board to get feedback.

7) Board Committee Reports –

- TAC – Burt Bundy, SRCAF Manager, facilitated the January 7th TAC meeting in the absence of Chair Anjanette Martin and Vice Chair Stacy Cepello. Burt reported that Kelly Maroney, Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge Manager, announced 19 wells were abandoned and sealed by the USF&WS on the Rio Vista property at the request of Tehama County to protect ground water quality.

Terry Hanson, City of Redding, was introduced to discuss the Turtle Bay Project in Shasta County that had also been discussed at the TAC meeting. The proponents are requesting funding to restore and enhance riparian habitat on 340 acres on both sides of the Sacramento River. Approximately 20% of the project is within the floodplain. Turtle Bay and the City of Redding are also working with the Corps of Engineers for wetlands design. Questions were raised about the degree of landowner involvement, flood impact, and monitoring. John Merz commented that monitoring requirements are too short on all projects; a suggestion was made that organizations such as the Wildlife Conservation Board ask if the project has a monitoring component. John noted that the information submitted on the SRCAF Project Fact Sheet provided a summary of a project but he did not feel it furnished enough detail. He also asked that information on projects be made available to the TAC earlier to give time for review before the meeting. A subcommittee has been formed to look at the Project Fact Sheet, and the process as a whole, but has not met as yet. Glenn Hawes moved that the SRCAF staff draft a letter to

the Wildlife Conservation Board stating the project is consistent with the SRCAF guidelines, Denny Bungarz seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote. Two directed action proposals submitted by The Nature Conservancy were reviewed at the December 19th TAC: (1) CALFED proposal # 167, Implementing a Collaborative Approach to Quantifying Ecosystem Flow Regime Needs for the Sacramento River and (2) CALFED proposal #171, Sacramento River Restoration, Chico Landing Sub-Reach. Both projects had been reviewed at previous TAC meetings as well. The TAC determined the projects were consistent with the SRCAF guidelines. A letter had been drafted to Patrick Wright, CALFED Executive Director, for signature by the SRCAF Chair regarding the review of the projects. Denny Bungarz moved that the Board approve the letter to CALFED indicating support of the two proposals, #167 and #171, as consistent with the principles and guidelines of the SRCAF Handbook, Don Anderson seconded the motion. Shirley Lewis expressed a concern about restoration creating possible drainage problems at the 25-acre Sunset Ranch site. It was noted that an Environmental Assessment had been done and The Reclamation Board is continuing discussion on the permitting issue. The motion to approve the letter was passed by a majority vote, with 2 opposed.

- Landowner Assurances Committee – The next meeting will be held February 12, 2003 at the Glenn County Supervisors' conference room at 3:00 p.m.
 - PILT/Economic Committee – The next meeting will be held February 12, 2003 at the Glenn County Supervisors' conference room at 1:00 p.m. The Committee will discuss the socio-economic report; comments received by The Nature Conservancy regarding the report will also be made available.
 - Executive Committee – The Chair reported the planning conference connected to the Capacity Building grant would not occur until possibly mid-summer. Don Anderson moved that the letter from Resources Law Group be signed indicating agreement by the SRCAF to the conditions of the grant, seconded by Ben Carter. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
- 8) Manager's Report- Due to time constraints, a verbal report was not given; copies of the written report were available.
- 9) Future Meeting Dates – The next SRCAF Board meeting will be held February 20th at the Monday Afternoon Club, Willows at 3:00 p.m. The March 20th meeting may be held at a different location; the possibility of holding the meeting at Turtle Bay will be explored. Glenn Hawes offered to provide a tour of the mitigation bank he has established in Shasta County prior to the meeting if there is an interest.

Meeting adjourned 5:25 p.m.

